

## The Year in Review:

# The Buzz Word for 1992 was 'Change'

By Tracy Zikowitz

After the ball dropped in Times Square and the parties stopped, the harsh reality of 1992 set in. In the United States, it was the year of the "E": economy, elections, and environment. Around the world, chaos reigned in many countries. Upon reflecting on a rather dismal year, most people agree the best thing about 1992 is...1993.

### THE ECONOMY:

America continued to be burdened with its longest recession since the 1930s. After a fruitless holiday retail season, layoffs and debts plagued the country. Bank failures made consumers uneasy about investing. To add insult to injury, the interest rates were consistently rock bottom.

Abroad, the European Economic Community voted the Deutsche Mark the common currency. Unfortunately, further talks concerning the bonding of these 12 nations stalled due to the emergence of domestic problems. Foreign currencies over-powered the U.S. dollar, and its value decreased overseas.

### WAR & CRIME:

Right-wing nationalism was on the rise once again in Europe. In 1992, racially motivated crimes increased dramatically with the resurgence of the outspoken "skinhead" group. The dissolved Yugoslavia experienced more internal unrest. The United Nations peace-keeping units couldn't even put a damper on the atrocities.

At home, gang violence went up remarkably. Car-jacking became a dangerous trend, often ending tragically. High school student Amy Fisher from Long Island gained notoriety for shooting her lover's wife. Her bail money came from the press interested in buying the rights to her story.

### THE ENVIRONMENT:

The problem of ozone depletion continued to be addressed around the world. Awareness heightened as the reports of skin cancer rose.

In other environmental news, Mother Nature dealt a cruel blow to the residents of Florida and the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Andrew lashed the coast and left millions of dollars in damage in its wake. Similarly, Hurricane Iniki pelted Hawaii and undermined that state's valuable tourism industry.

### THE ELECTION:

Do you remember Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown, and Pat Buchanan? All three tried unsuccessfully to make a bid for their respective party's tickets. The Republican National Convention, held in Houston, Texas, proudly presented the incumbents George Bush and Dan Quayle, while the Democratic National Convention in New York City unsurprisingly nominated former Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and his running mate Tennessee's Al Gore. The Independent dark horse H. Ross Perot, along with James Stockdale, earned an admirable share of the popular vote, despite their July exit from the race.

It was a long campaign trail that ran the gamut from name-calling to scandals to public discontent. We witnessed the most lively debates in years, as well as the almost comedic use of flip charts. The tallied election results on November 3 provided America with a new president. Little Rock, Arkansas, partied until dawn.

### SPORTS:

It was an Olympic year, and sports were in the spotlight. The Parade of Nations at the Winter Games in Albertville, France, proved to be a geography enthusiast's delight. Now that the U.S.S.R. is non-existent, many of the Commonwealth States marched individually. The U.S. swept the Ladies' Figure Skating event with winners Kristi Yamaguchi, Nancy Kerrigan, and Tonya Harding.

Team USA dominated the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. Men's Basketball's "Dream Team" bullied their way to gold by out-scoring their opponents tremendously. America's swim team broke records and carried home 27 medals.

In professional sports, "Da Bulls" won the NBA championships against the Portland Trailblazers. The World Series of Baseball crossed international borders as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Atlanta Braves for the pennant. Americans fared well in tennis. Most notably, Andre Agassi donned white to become this year's men's Wimbledon champion.

Hockey history was made when a bidding war for Canadian Olympic sensation Eric Lindros broke out between the Quebec Nordiques and our own Philadelphia Flyers. This hefty acquisition cost the Flyers many good players, but the interest sparked by his arrival generated cash flow.

The Super Bowl proved to be unexciting as the Washington Redskins annihilated the Buffalo Bills. Rumored to be the next Super Bowl favorites, the Eagles had a tumultuous season. Jerome Brown died in a car accident during the summer. Tight-end Keith Jackson took the money and ran to Miami to play for the Dolphins. In the fall, the Eagles obtained Herschel Walker, and saw the come-back of Randall Cunningham.

### PEOPLE:

At a time of stressed "family values," the Woody Allen-Mia Farrow feud became public. By dating Farrow's college-aged daughter, Allen's life in '92 ironically imitated his 1979 film "Manhattan".

The British monarchy became crucially unstable this past year. The press exposed the Duchess of York as she exposed herself while vacationing topless with another man. Books about Princess Diana had lengthy stays on the *New York Times* Best Seller List. Fleet Street had a field day reporting on the imminent divorce of the heir to the British throne.

In the US, audiences were enthralled by U2's spectacular "Zoo TV Tour". Promoting their new album "Achtung Baby", the stage

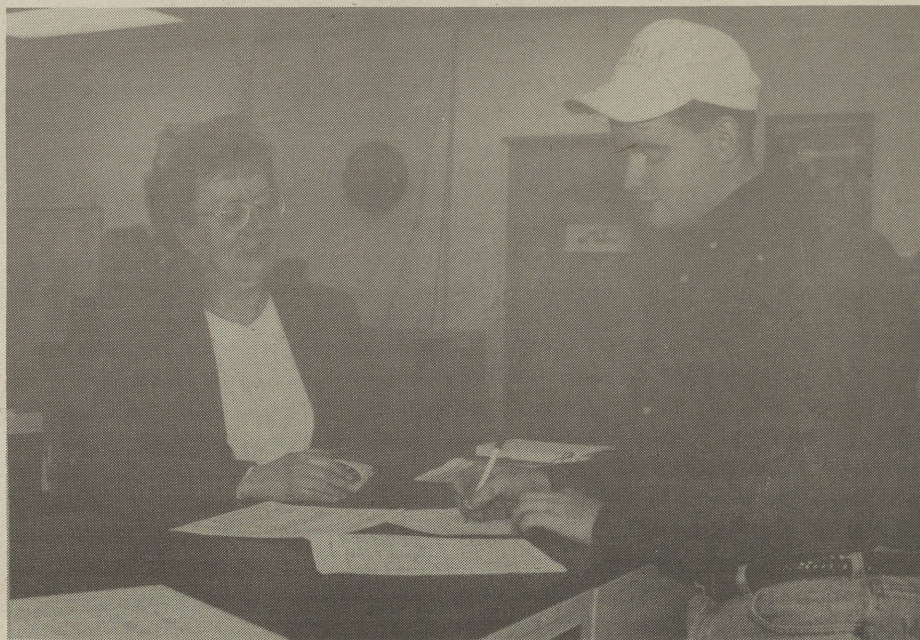
show included satellite hook-ups and elaborately lit Trabant cars from East Germany.

Johnny Carson bowed out of "The Tonight Show" in May. Jay Leno assumed his place under questionable circumstances. Radio renegade Howard Stern, heard locally on WYSP-FM, expanded his simulcast to almost 10 cities across the country. It's been 10 years since The Buggles' "Video Killed the Radio Star" initiated the first broadcast of MTV. *Rolling Stone*

magazine celebrated their Silver Anniversary with a classic look back at controversial covers and interviews.

### A LOOK AHEAD:

As we enter the homestretch of 1992, take a deep breath and reflect upon the past year. The dramatic change in our status quo proved to be very stressful. Take the new year in stride. With "change" as the buzz word for 1992 watch for the events to come in 1993.



Joyce Rigby, campus registrar, assists a Delco student who is registering for spring semester.

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